

Botanical Beach
Provincial Park

MASTER PLAN

DRAFT

Prepared by
Malahat District
South Coast Region
North Vancouver, B.C.



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Acknowledgements

Roger Norrish, Master Planning Coordinator, Conservation Services, BC Parks, Victoria wrote the draft Botanical Beach Park Master Plan and Background Report. BC Parks Malahat District, South Coast Regional Office and Victoria Headquarters staff provided capable assistance. In particular, Dave Chater, Malahat District Manager; Bill Shaw, South Malahat Zone Manager, Malahat District; Don McLaren, Goldstream Area Supervisor, Malahat District; Rik Simmons, Resource Officer, South Coast Region; Kerry Joy, Forest and Vegetation Specialist, BC Parks, Victoria; Cathy Mackin, former Malahat District Visitor Services Coordinator; and Robin Soule, former Malahat District Manager are commended for their significant contributions to the preparation of the draft master plan.

Plan Highlights

- About 76% of the park is zoned Natural Environment. A significant portion of the park's foreshore, tidepools and remnant old-growth forest is zoned as Special Feature.

- The park boundary will be expanded to include old highway right-of-ways. Adjacent private lands will be considered for addition to the park.

- Damaged forest and vegetation in the park will be restored to natural conditions.

- Fishing, hunting and harvesting of terrestrial and marine wildlife will be prohibited in the park. The collection of specimens for scientific studies will require park use permits.

- A modest facility-development program will be implemented to provide access and recreation opportunities and minimize resource damage.

- A promotion and information program will inform and educate the public about park resources, public-stewardship obligations, and allow BC Parks to effectively manage increased use pressures.

- A BC Parks initiative will foster support from the local community and other levels of government in the management of the park.

- BC Parks will encourage compatible scientific research activities which educate the public and further knowledge about park resources.

Introduction

Plan Purpose

Botanical Beach Provincial Park is a unique shoreline area on the San Juan Peninsula. People are drawn to the park to witness the spectacular display of marine life present in the tidepools. The park also supplies a variety of beach and nature appreciation activities in a small, scenic part of the rugged Pacific Coast of Vancouver Island.

The purpose of this master plan is to ensure the park is planned and managed in a careful, thoughtful manner. The aim of BC Parks is to protect and preserve the unique tidepools and shoreline environment of Botanical Beach Park while providing opportunities for public appreciation and enjoyment. Other important considerations are rehabilitation of the park's upland and defining the park's relationship to the local community and to Pacific Rim National Park Reserve.

Key Issues

The master plan addresses several management and planning issues.

Park Role

The role Botanical Beach Park plays in the Victoria to Port Renfrew corridor and the park's relationship with local communities, adjacent landowners and Pacific Rim National Park Reserve are described in the plan.

Natural and Cultural Resource Protection

The master plan explains the management objectives and actions needed to protect the park's natural and cultural resources.

Vegetation Management

The master plan establishes a strategy for completing an inventory of vegetation resources, evaluating the inventory data, and preparing a vegetation management plan which emphasizes a return to coastal western hemlock vegetation.

Park Facility Development

Compatible recreation opportunities and facilities which adequately protect the park's fragile natural resources but provide reasonable public access are defined in the master plan.

Public Education and Information

A program to continue the vital role of research while also educating the public to respect and protect the marine resources of the park is outlined in the plan.

Park Boundary

Areas where boundary changes should be considered in relation to park resource management and recreation needs are presented in the master plan.

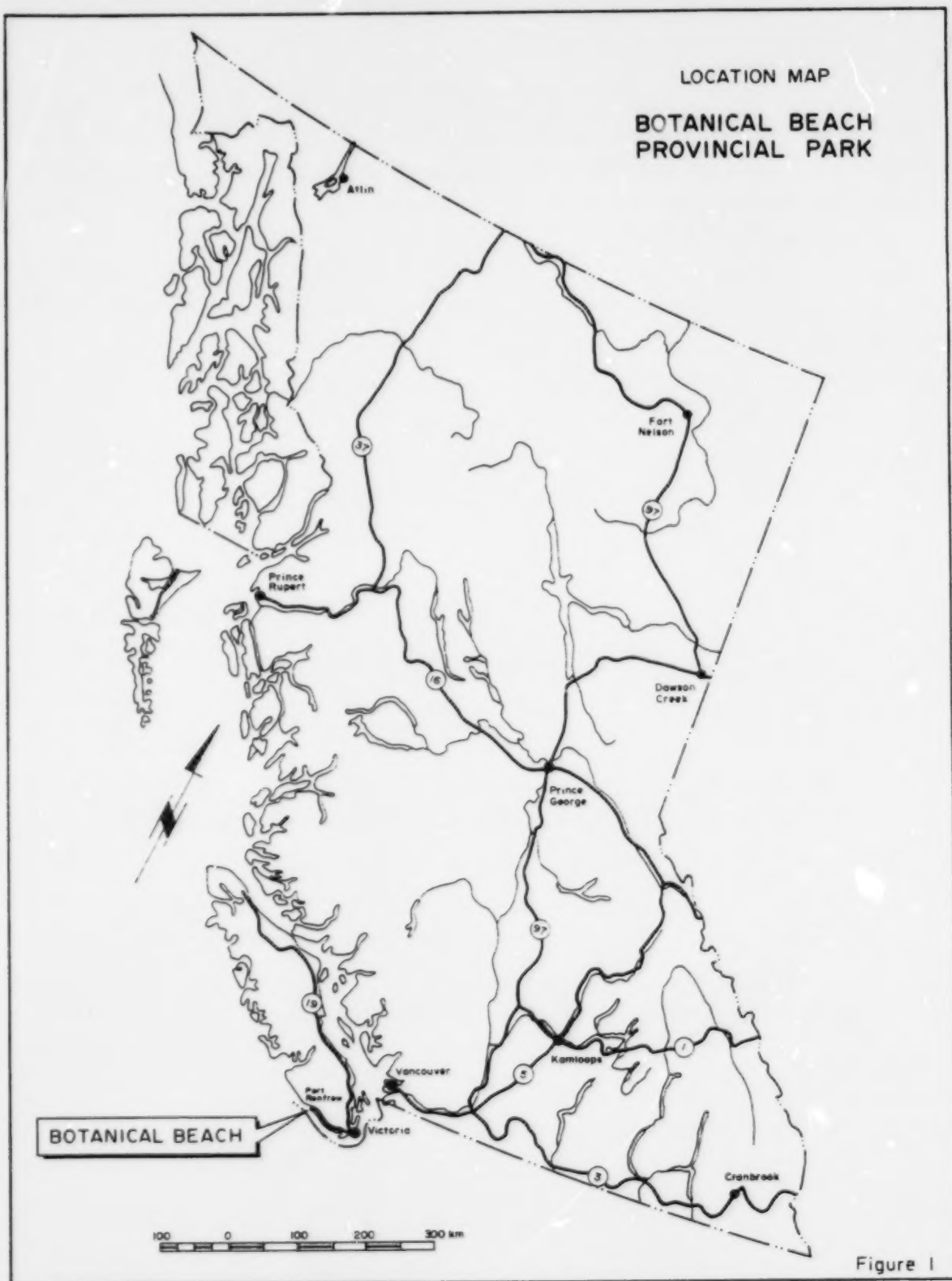
Background Summary

Scientists recognized the special quality of Botanical Beach's marine resources in the first decade of this century when the University of Minnesota established a marine research station. Over the years scientists, conservationists and the general public fought to ensure protection of this special area. For example, in 1984 the Nature Trust of Canada acquired land at Botanical Beach which formed the nucleus for further conservation activities. These efforts were rewarded when the provincial government established Botanical Beach as a Class A, Category 2, Provincial Park by Order-In-Council 147, approved February 9, 1989.

The park is located 108 kilometres west of Victoria and 3.5 kilometres south of Port Renfrew, at the west end of the San Juan Peninsula (Figure 1). Its 351 hectares are comprised of 231 hectares of upland and 120 hectares of foreshore. People from Sooke and Victoria reach the park by driving paved Highway 14 to Port Renfrew, then following a rough, 3.5 kilometre four wheel drive road south from Port Renfrew.

Botanical Beach Park is renowned for a variety of natural and cultural resource features. Nationally significant tidepools, rich with intertidal marine life, are its prime attraction to the public. Scenic rock headlands and rock exposures add a vibrant wildness to the park, particularly when strong Pacific winds lash the shore during frequent winter storms. Extensive pebble and sand beaches exist along the central and eastern part of the park's shoreline, while secluded pocket beaches are found in the more rugged western shores. Small, remnant stands of old-growth coastal western hemlock clothe the upland near the tidepools and lower west side of the park. Three archaeological sites (two inside the park boundaries) attest to the rich native Indian heritage of the area. Because the park was the first marine station in the Pacific Northwest and a World War II defence site, a special cultural flavour is added to the park. Finally, the park contains excellent upland and shoreline viewing points.

The Park offers a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities. The scenic sand and pebble beaches along the park's shoreline are ideal for picnics and other beach activities. Visitors can also embark on day hikes to isolated pocket beaches and summits along the west coast of the park. Hiking, however, is difficult because of the lack of upland trails. Finally, the park's outstanding marine environment affords the public exceptional opportunities for the study and appreciation of intertidal life.



Day visits by interested individuals, school groups and natural history groups form the primary use of the park. BC Parks estimated use at 2,000 - 3,000 party days in 1982. Statistics gathered by BC Parks from June to September, 1991 indicate about 6500 party days for the eight week recording period. Thus, the numbers of people visiting the park continues to increase substantially, despite the difficult access road conditions. The majority of visitors to the park are believed to originate from the Victoria region.

The Role of the Park

Regional and Provincial Context

Botanical Beach Provincial Park lies within the West Coast Plain Landscape. It has also been identified as an "outstanding" natural feature for intertidal life and tidepools under the "special features" system developed for BC Parks.

The Park is located at the western terminus of Highway 14 and is the most westerly in a series of Provincial Parks which include French Beach, China Beach and Loss Creek Provincial Parks. Moreover, the park is an important tourist attraction in the Port Renfrew area, often in association with visits to the West Coast Trail in Pacific Rim National Park Reserve (Figure 2).

Conservation Role

Botanical Beach Provincial Park achieves the following conservation goals.

- Preserves a unique natural feature (marine tidal pools) within the West Coast Plain Landscape.
- Protects and presents significant geological, vegetation, and wildlife (marine) resources.
- Secures archaeological and historical cultural features.
- Conserves a rich intertidal ecosystem, long recognized for its value to the scientific community.
- Protects a marine ecosystem with high value to society because of its accessible educational opportunities.

- Presents an upland environment which has been changed by land-use activities and provides an opportunity for long term interpretive educational programs.
- Protects archaeological and historical resources worthy of long term interpretive educational programs.

Recreation Role

Botanical Beach Provincial Park satisfies the following recreation goals.

- Provides people travelling Highway 14 and visiting the Port Renfrew area with outstanding day-use opportunities oriented to a Vancouver Island west coast shoreline environment.
- Supplies local and regional recreation opportunities including upland hiking, viewing, nature study and picnicking.

BOTANICAL BEACH PROVINCIAL PARK REGIONAL SETTING

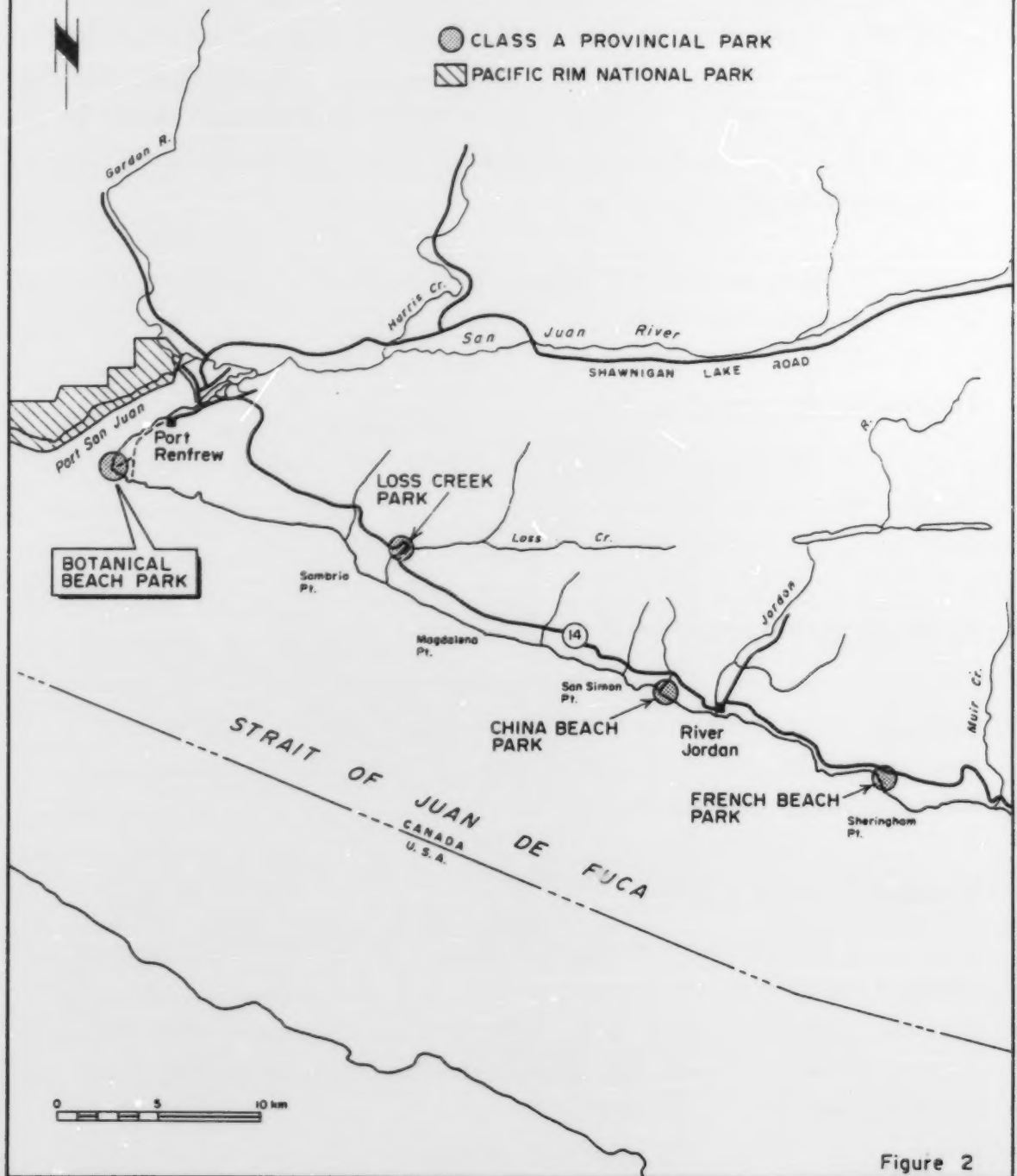


Figure 2

Park Zoning

Zoning is a procedure used to assist in the planning and management of provincial parks and recreation areas. It divides parks into logical areas of land and water based upon uniform and consistent management objectives. The zones reflect the intended land use, the level of management and development required, and the level of human activity to be accommodated. Appendix II of this plan explains the BC Parks zoning system further.

Intensive Recreation, Natural Environment and Special Feature Zones are applied to Botanical Beach Park.

Intensive Recreation Zone

The objective of this zone is to provide for a variety of readily accessible, facility-oriented outdoor recreation opportunities. In Botanical Beach Park, this zone includes all the area covered by access roads and vehicle parking lots.

Natural Environment Zone

The objective for the Natural Environment Zone is to protect scenic values and supply backcountry recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment. This zone includes the remainder of the park outside the Intensive Recreation and Special Feature Zones.

Special Feature Zone

The objective of the Special Feature Zone is to protect and present significant natural or cultural resources, features, or processes because of their special character, fragility and heritage values. This zone covers the remnant old-growth forest, the Botanical Beach tidepools, and the entire intertidal area in the park east from District Lot 444.

BOTANICAL BEACH PROVINCIAL PARK ZONING

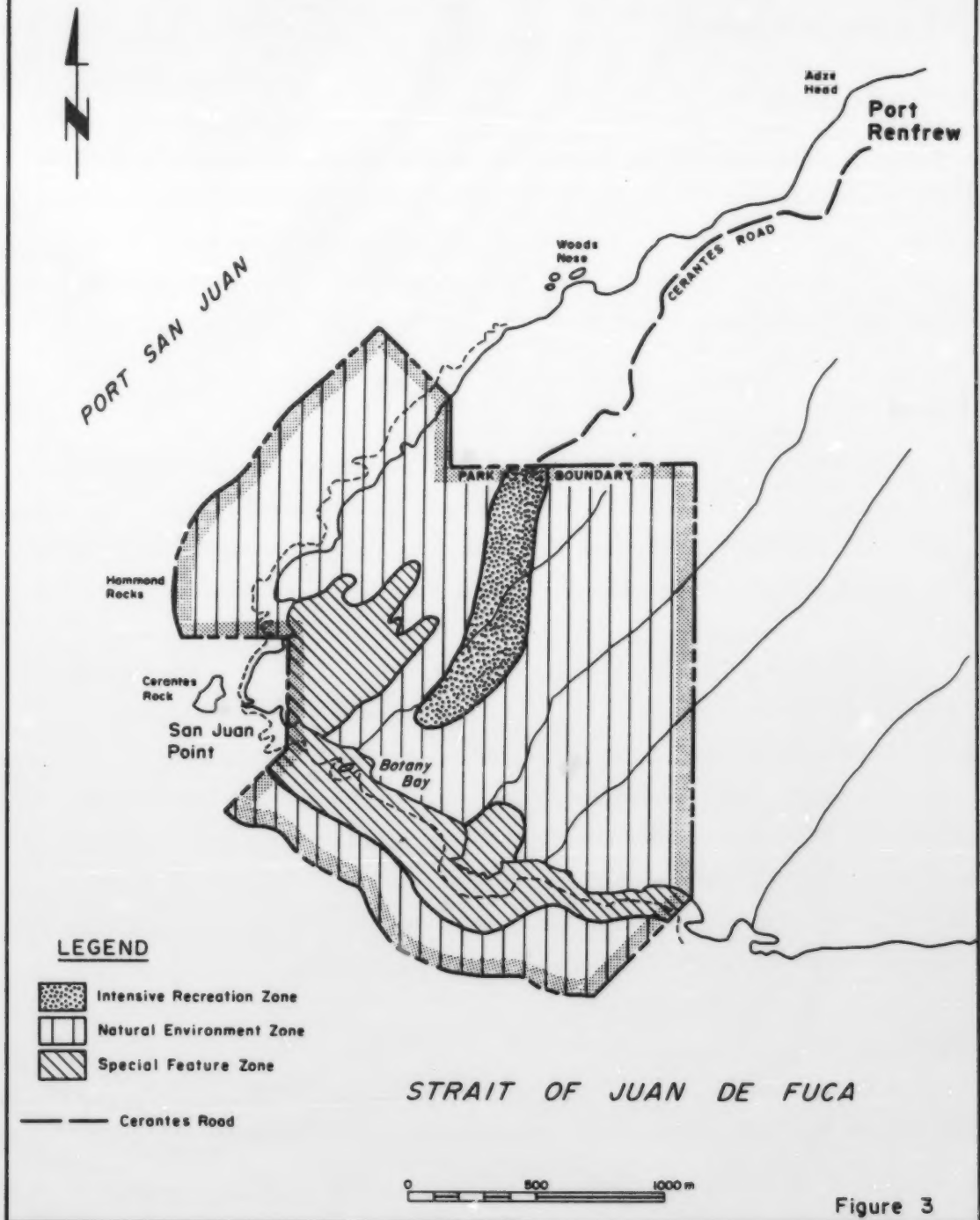


Figure 3

Natural and Cultural Resource Management

Introduction

Resource management will be directed toward preserving the natural features and processes of the park to ensure the maintenance of a quality environment. Special effort will be made to rehabilitate those environments damaged by previous human land-use activities. Visitor use of the tidepools is another resource management consideration emphasized in this plan.

Land

Two road right-of-ways cross Botanical Beach Provincial Park. Cerantes Road, gazetted in 1968, extends across the park to end in District Lot 444. The West Coast Road, gazetted in 1929, traverses all four lots which make up the park. These road right-of-ways should be added to the park.

District Lot 444, strategically located at the west end of the San Juan Peninsula and virtually surrounded by park land, is privately owned. Cerantes Rock, lying immediately west of D.L. 144, is vacant Crown land. Provincially significant natural and outdoor recreation features exist along the District Lot 110 shoreline. District Lot 158, adjacent to the northwest corner of the park, contains impressive outdoor recreation features such as sand beaches, rock platforms and sea stacks. Acquisition of these lands would provide a more rational park boundary and expand the quality of the park's natural, cultural and recreational features.

Objectives:

- To manage the park's upland and marine area for the protection of its natural features and the rehabilitation of the lands affected by past industrial activity;

Legend:
 - Road Rights-of-Way
 - Private Lands and Foreshore

Map Labels:
 - PORT SAN JUAN
 - Adze Head
 - Port Renfrew
 - DL 17
 - DL 155
 - DL 156
 - DL 448
 - DL 449
 - DL 108
 - DL 109
 - DL 110
 - DL 206
 - DL 811
 - DL 710
 - DL 444
 - Hammond Rocks
 - Corantes Rocks
 - San Juan Point
 - Botany Bay
 - Botanical Beach
 - Bird Creek
 - WEST COAST ROAD
 - Tom
 - Port 180-3
 - Port 180-4
 - Port 180-5
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Scale: 0 500 1000 m

STRAIT OF JUAN DE FUCA

RENFREW LAND DISTRICT

Figure 4

13

- To consolidate the park boundary to ensure full protection of the marine environment and natural, cultural and outdoor recreation features;
- To ensure public road access to Botanical Beach Park;
- To acquire adjacent properties deemed integral to the park; and,
- To identify the park's land boundaries.

Management Actions:

- Attempt to extinguish the West Coast Road and Cerantes Road right-of-ways and add these lands to Botanical Beach Park.
- Acquire, in order of priority, the following properties:
 - District Lot 444 (San Juan Point);
 - Cerantes Rock;
 - District Lot 158;
 - Islands off District Lot 158;
 - The southwest portion of District Lot 110 (Tom Baird Creek);
 - 400 metre foreshore strip fronting District Lots 444, 110 and 158.
- Initiate discussions with Ministry of Transportation and Highways to upgrade and maintain the Cerantes Road right-of-way to the north boundary of the park.

- Install BC Parks standard signs to define the park's land boundaries.

Water

Botanical Beach Park contains both freshwater and saltwater resources. Past land use activities have affected the water quality of several small streams in the park. An example is logging debris accumulation in the small stream within District Lot 109.

At present, human waste is a problem along the beaches and at parking areas in the park. BC Parks must ensure that adequate sanitary facilities and public education measures are in place to protect water resources.

The threat of oil contaminating the intertidal zone of the park was recognized in 1989, following the oil spill off the coast of Washington State. Oil contamination occurred along parts of the exposed west coast of Vancouver Island. Action must be taken to ensure proper response measures are in place in case a similar calamity occurs within Botanical Beach Park.

Objectives:

- To maintain the natural condition and quality of saltwater and all freshwater streams and pools in the park.

Management Actions:

- Establish and maintain contact with the Ministry of Environment, the Provincial Emergency Program (Ministry of Solicitor General), and the Federal Government to explore what oilspill-control measures may be developed for the protection of the park environment.
- Remove logging slash and debris in the stream northeast of the main tidepools (District Lot 109).

- Install freshwater and public sanitary facilities associated with the Visitor Services Program.

Forest and Vegetation

Botanical Beach Park is special because vegetation resources involve both the land and marine environments. Some people have expressed concern that visitors are removing and damaging vegetation associated with the tidepools.

The logging of the park's upland left an altered vegetation and forest ecosystem. The remnant old-growth forest is a feature worthy of protection and presentation to the public. Equally important, however, BC Parks must institute a program of careful and sensitive rehabilitation of those areas of the park where logging took place and roads were built.

Objectives:

- To protect and maintain the park's forest and land vegetation, marine vegetation and remnant old growth forest ecosystem; and
- To restore damaged forest and land and marine vegetation to natural conditions.

Management Actions:

- Complete a forest and land and marine vegetation inventory to identify plant communities, rare species and threatened plant communities.
- Restore forest and land and marine vegetation affected by logging, road construction and public recreation activities.
- Prepare a vegetation management plan.

Fish

Freshwater streams in the park are small. While some fish exist in them, no inventory of these fish resources has been developed.

The park's marine environment is the home for a variety of fish species, but an inventory of marine fish in the park does not exist.

Objectives:

- To protect and maintain the variety of marine and freshwater fish found in the park; and,
- To present and interpret for public education the fish resources of the park.

Management Actions:

- Complete an inventory of marine and freshwater fish resources in the park.
- Close the park to freshwater and saltwater fishing.
- Limit and place all proposed research activities under park-use permit.

Wildlife

While Botanical Beach Park does not contain a rich heritage of large land mammals and birds, wildlife species still contribute considerably to the park's diversity. Common bird species include Western and Least Sandpiper, California Gull, Killdeer, and American Robin. Mammals may include red squirrel, black bear, cougar, blacktail deer, river otter, mink and raccoon. Amphibians and reptiles may include Northwestern Salamander, Clouded Salamander, Western Red-backed Salamander, Western Toad, Pacific Treefrog, Common Garter Snake and Pacific Green Turtle.

The marine animals, particularly those associated with the tidepools, present a wide variety of species in a small and accessible environment. Sea stars, crabs, purple sea urchin, giant green sea anemones, and goose neck barnacles are common. These marine species are particularly vulnerable to disturbance by people visiting the tidepools. The possibility of oil spills adds further urgency to the management of these resources.

A key management direction is to complete an inventory of wildlife resources and their habitats.

Objectives:

- To protect and maintain the numbers and diversity of marine and terrestrial wildlife found in the park.

Management Actions:

- Prohibit hunting and the discharge of firearms in the park.
- Establish a comprehensive wildlife education and interpretation program for the park.
- Complete a marine and terrestrial wildlife inventory of the park.
- Evaluate changes in species habitat and types by comparing current research data with the University of Minnesota research station base line data of 1906, as well as other sources of research from such institutions as the University of British Columbia and University of Victoria.
- Prohibit the disturbance and removal of marine animals except as authorized by a valid park-use permit.

Cultural Resources

Botanical Beach Park is the focus for several interesting cultural themes. Early Native people's use of the park is an obvious theme which should be linked with the Native people history in the general Port Renfrew region. The Pacheenaht Native people of the Port Renfrew area should be consulted to determine the importance of Botanical Beach to their culture. BC Parks should investigate and develop the scientific research theme. The use of the park area for past military purposes is another interesting and relatively unknown cultural theme.

Objectives:

- To protect archaeological and historical resources from disruptive development and land uses; and
- To inform the public about the history and past use of the park.

Management Actions:

- Determine the significance of archaeological resources in Botanical Beach Provincial Park with the assistance of the Archaeology and Outdoor Recreation Branch, Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Recreation and Culture.
- Develop and present to the public a history of the use of the park as a marine research station and military defence site.
- Establish direct contact with the Pacheenaht Native people to determine the significance of the Botanical Beach Park area to their culture.
- Present to the public a history of Native people's use of the area.

Recreation Features and Visual Resources

The recreation features and visual resources of the park are extremely significant. The tidepools are identified as nationally significant for aquatic habitat, rock platform and viewing site recreation features. The visual landscape of the park's shore is spectacular, with its rock headlands and high energy wave action when ocean swells strike the rocks.

The master plan intends to provide sensitive direction for the protection of these features and visual settings.

Objectives:

- To ensure that resource management activities, visitor use and park development pose little threat to the park's outdoor recreation features; and
- To protect the visual resources of the park.

Management Actions:

- Encourage people to stay on defined trails through park information and adequately maintained and signed trails.
- Prepare and implement a Visitor Services management program dedicated to encouraging non-destructive use of the tidepools.
- Locate and design all park facilities in harmony with the visual setting. Special attention will be given to the location of parking lots, trails and viewing platforms.
- Produce a forest and vegetation management plan which allows for visual protection and enhancement. Special attention will be given to the logged areas of the park.



Plate #1. An example of the tidepool formations.



Plate #2. Aerial view of Botany Bay.

Scientific Research

The tidepools at Botanical Beach drew the scientific community to this area in the first decade of this century. Scientific research into the marine ecosystem at Botanical Beach will continue to be important for our public school system, colleges and universities. As recently as 1989, a University of Washington graduate student completed a Ph.D. thesis on soft coral found in the tidepools.

The research which occurs in the park is currently unauthorized by park-use permit. A major initiative for BC Parks will be documenting this important use of the park.

Scientific research is also viewed as a strong ally in providing information to the public on safe and compatible use of the park's vulnerable marine environment. BC Parks will support compatible research programs proposed by colleges and universities.

Objectives:

- To authorize existing scientific research activities in the park; and
- To encourage scientific research programs which serve to educate the public and further knowledge about park resources.

Management Actions:

- Document scientific research activities occurring in Botanical Beach Park.
- Establish criteria to evaluate scientific research activities which satisfy the park's conservation and recreation roles.
- Issue park-use permits to selected research projects based on criteria evaluation.

Visitor Services

General Concept

Botanical Beach Provincial Park has a high public profile among residents of southern Vancouver Island. People write about the park regularly in local newspapers and magazines. In recent years, the efforts of the provincial government to acquire title to lands at Botanical Beach generated considerable public attention. In addition, educational and environmental groups continue to visit the park and publish their findings.

Since the park has gained a high public profile, a major task for this master plan is to build upon this general familiarity so that people are made aware of the park's vulnerable environment and its vast educational potential.

The general concept for visitor services management in Botanical Beach Park is to design and locate park facilities in a manner sensitive to the marine environment. Appendix I outlines a comprehensive development concept which recognizes the park's vulnerable marine resources and the need for the efficient management of visitor use.

Access Strategy

The park's access road is in deplorable condition but, ironically, this has served to protect the tidepools from overuse. Thus, the access strategy becomes a critical consideration in the management of the park.

Besides the upgrading of the road inside the park, BC Parks must establish an agreement with the Ministry of Transportation and Highways for the maintenance of Cerantes Road to the park.

Public road access will end in the central part of the park. The present road down to Botany Bay and the tidepools area will be closed and converted to natural conditions. A new trail will be located to Botany Bay and the tidepools. The strategy is to ensure people have to hike some distance (1000 - 1200 metres) to reach the tidepools, thus reducing the temptation to pack out marine animal specimens. This will also prevent current problems posed by four-wheel-drive and all-terrain-vehicle access to the beach.

The main road into the park is the primary control for off-hour and seasonal use. BC Parks will place a gate on the access road adjacent to the park's north boundary.

Information Strategy

Botanical Beach Park presents a unique opportunity for local, provincial and federal government cooperation in providing information to the public. This master plan serves as a catalyst for expanding the tourism base of Port Renfrew, ensuring the public is informed about the management of Botanical Beach Park, and the Federal Government's management of Pacific Rim National Park Reserve and the West Coast Trail.

The Botanical Beach Park master plan presents a large-audience promotion and information program for public review and comment. This program is focused on the concept of a visitor centre in the community of Port Renfrew. The visitor centre would allow BC Parks to introduce Botanical Beach Park as one of many points of interest in this area. Also, the centre permits BC Parks to advise the public about the park's resources, facilities and management. The centre would also perform an education and interpretation function.

Visitor Opportunities

Botanical Beach Park is an important attraction for many visitors to the Port Renfrew region. People travel to the Port Renfrew area for a variety of recreation experiences.

Many tourists come to the area to spend six to eight days hiking the West Coast Trail. Their time in Port Renfrew is limited to activities associated with preparing for the hike if starting from Port Renfrew, or ending their journey if they started in Bamfield.

A growing number of people are coming to Port Renfrew to participate in one-to-three day fishing trips. Camping is available at local private campgrounds in Port Renfrew and on the Pacheenaht reserve. Visitors often look to Botanical Beach Park as another attraction while they are in the area.

The largest number of park users continue to be individuals, families and organized groups who visit for the day. As road access improves from Sooke to Port Renfrew, this day-use will continue to grow.

Botanical Beach Park provides substantial outdoor recreation opportunities oriented to its scenic shoreline and forested upland.

Natural and Cultural Resource Appreciation

Superb opportunities exist in Botanical Beach Provincial Park for natural and cultural resource appreciation. These opportunities range from the viewing of the marine animals in the tidepools to the pleasure of walking through a stand of old-growth western hemlock forest.

Objectives:

- To encourage greater visitor appreciation and understanding of the park's natural and cultural resources.

Management Actions:

- Develop interpretation displays to present the geological and marine ecosystem within the Special Feature Zone of the park. The displays will be located near the tidepools and in the Port Renfrew visitor centre.

- Develop interpretation displays to present the forest and cultural resources within the park's upland. These displays will be situated at the park's main parking lot and in the Port Renfrew visitor centre.

Hiking

Hiking opportunities in the park are limited to trails along the seashore and the access road. The master plan advocates a program of enhanced trail development as described in Appendix I.

Objectives:

- To expand and maintain a variety of hiking trails throughout the park; and
- To plan the trails so the public gains scenic views from the seashore and the upland.

Management Actions:

- Implement the trail program outlined in Appendix I.

Picnicking/Beach Activities

Picnicking and beach activities will continue to be a prime activity for people visiting the park. For family groups, the tidepools and the park's sand and pebble beaches are the preferred destinations. The rock and sandstone outcrops around Botany Bay and east of the tidepools are of secondary interest. Picnicking occurs as an informal activity with beach related recreation. Some picnic facilities will be provided in the park.

Objectives:

- To encourage informal beach and picnicking activities in an unstructured, natural setting.

Management Actions:

- Implement picnicking development as outlined in Appendix I.

Fishing/Hunting

Fishing occurs along the shore of the park. This activity is not acceptable in the park for conservation and safety reasons. Because of the park's small size and year-round public use, hunting and the discharge of firearms will be prohibited.

Objectives:

- To protect the park's fish and wildlife resources.

Management Actions:

- Designate the park as a no-fishing area.
- Close the park to hunting and the discharge of firearms.

Camping

Overnight camping will not be considered in Botanical Beach Park as long as other alternatives exist outside the park. Private sector camping facilities are available in Port Renfrew. BC Parks will encourage the public to use these facilities.

Group Use

Organized groups use the park extensively. This use will increase when access is improved.

Objectives:

- To encourage group use of the park under appropriate guidelines for the protection of the park's environment and public safety.

Management Actions:

- Require all commercially guided groups to obtain park-use permits.

Management Services**Park Administration**

Botanical Beach Park is administered within the South Zone, Malahat Park District. The District headquarters is located at Goldstream Provincial Park.

Operations Function**Objectives:**

- To maintain a BC Parks presence within Botanical Beach Park to provide park resource management, interpretation and safety services; and
- To manage public access to the park during off hours.

Management Actions:

- Provide a year-round management presence in the park.
- Establish a volunteer program involving Port Renfrew citizens to assist BC Parks management of the park, particularly in the winter season (October - April).
- Install a gate at the park entrance to control access to and from the park.

Promotion and Information Program

General Program Direction

Developing a strategy which effectively promotes Botanical Beach Park while still informing the public about its fragile nature is a major challenge for BC Parks. Although the park's marine resources are resilient in a natural, undisturbed setting, concern about damage to these resources is warranted because of the small size of the park and the effects of increasing public use.

This draft plan presents for public comment a promotion and information program aimed at a large, broad audience.

Large-Audience Program

The large-audience program is oriented to educating and informing as large an audience as possible. BC Parks wants to reach its own staff and all potential Botanical Beach Park users including first time visitors, organized groups, retired citizens, casual visitors and local residents.

First-time visitors to the park could affect the future of the park's resources more than any others. They pose a concern to park managers because many lack general knowledge of the park. Thus, their impact on park resources could be extensive.

Because of their potential large size, organized tours and groups associated with learning and scientific research institutions may have extensive effects on the park. Park managers are particularly aware of the potentially harmful action of people handling and removing marine animals from their environment. In addition, the often large size of organized groups may result in damage to such park resources as sandstone formations.

Special efforts must be made to inform residents in Sooke and Port Renfrew about the intent of the park and its management. By assisting BC Parks in monitoring what is occurring in the area, local residents become important allies in the proper management of the park. Changes in use patterns which local people once enjoyed will take place now that Botanical Beach is protected under the Park Act. One example is the prohibition of overnight camping in the park. Changes such as this must be explained to local citizens so that support for the park is maintained.

A key initiative for the large-audience program is the preparation of a communications plan. This plan will examine how to best communicate with the intended audience. Direct, personal contact with individual park users and groups will be an important consideration.

Besides personal contact, the communications plan will also consider the following approaches: user satisfaction surveys, signs and displays, park brochures, group field trips, guided tours, written and electronic media, the visitor centre, special park events, and corporate sponsors.

The communications plan for the large audience will define the conservation, recreation and safety messages to be presented to the public. BC Parks will consider conservation themes such as protection of the park's marine ecosystem; protection of the park's land ecosystems; old-growth forest; Native people history and archaeological resources; stewardship of the park's resources; and rehabilitation of the park's resources. Recreation themes might include hiking opportunities in the park; bird watching; and proper ways to enjoy the sights and sounds of the park's tidepools. Safety themes will highlight information about the tides, precautions for walking on rock formations, and the dangers posed by fog and storm conditions.

The large-audience program will be oriented to year-round communication with all British Columbians.

The advantages of the large-audience program include: more innovative programs through special events and corporate sponsorship; park messages reaching a large audience; and benefits for other marine parks in the system.

The chief disadvantages include larger numbers of people coming to the park; straining BC Park's ability to manage visitors; and increased use pressures on the park's natural and cultural resources.

Objectives:

- To supply a large audience with information which informs them about the park's resources, recreation opportunities and hazards;
- To furnish information about regional tourism opportunities;
- To educate the public and BC Parks staff about their obligations as stewards of the park's resources; and
- To maintain effective management of visitor use through a high-profile information program directed to a broad audience.

Management Actions:

- Prepare a large-audience communications plan as outlined above.
- Try to establish an visitor centre in Port Renfrew.
- Set up a program which emphasizes contact with larger user groups both within and outside the park.

Port Renfrew Visitor Centre

The Port Renfrew visitor centre is an innovative concept integral to the large-audience promotion and information program for Botanical Beach Park. The concept is considered a cost-effective measure for local, provincial and federal levels of government to reach more of the public who visit this area. Economic incentives for local employment may be an added benefit. Finally, this centre will remove the need to consider such a costly facility in Botanical Beach Park.

The visitor centre would be located in Port Renfrew and provide information primarily about Botanical Beach Park, the West Coast Trail and Pacific Rim National Park Reserve. The centre could also present tourist information about the Cowichan Eco-Museum (includes such sites as the Duncan Forest Museum), the circle tour and attractions along Highway 14. Retail sales of items about these themes would contribute to the centre's self-sufficiency.

The visitor centre might focus on the such themes as: 1) resource protection; 2) the marine environment; 3) the region's aboriginal history; 4) scientific research activities; 5) shipwreck trail history; and, 6) local pioneering efforts.

Objectives:

- To participate in the development of an visitor centre at a strategic location in Port Renfrew.

Management Actions:

- Develop and evaluate ideas for the installation of an visitor centre in Port Renfrew.
- Identify a visitor centre program which satisfies all participant needs.

Marketing

The marketing of Botanical Beach Park must be carefully managed. The vulnerable marine resources and public safety are paramount considerations.

The prime markets for park information and promotion will be the local and regional population of southern Vancouver Island. Particular emphasis will be placed on families and organized groups.

To promote the park's superb natural and cultural resources, BC Parks will market one and two-day tour packages devoted to the appreciation of the tidepools and the old-growth forest. The park's beach, picnicking, and hiking opportunities will be marketed in a similar fashion, with one-to-two day tour packages focused on the park's beaches and upland trails.

Plan Implementation

For the purposes of this master plan, the plan management actions will be implemented in two phases: Phase I (Short term) which occurs from one to three years after approval of the master plan and Phase II (Long term) which occurs from four years and beyond.

Natural and Cultural Resource Management

Phase I (Short term)

Land

- Add road right-of-ways to the park.
- Add Lot 444 to the park.
- Add Cerantes Rock to the park.
- Improve the condition of Cerantes Road.
- Install park boundary signs.

Water

- Provide a reliable source of drinking water.
- Investigate oil spill mitigation measures.
- Install public sanitary facilities.
- Clean up debris in creek adjacent to tidepools.

Forest and Vegetation

- Complete a forest and land vegetation inventory.
- Complete a marine vegetation inventory.
- Rehabilitate land and marine vegetation affected by logging, road construction and public recreation activities.

Fish

- Complete an inventory of fish.
- Close the park to fishing.

Wildlife

- Prohibit hunting and discharge of firearms.
- Complete a wildlife inventory.
- Prohibit the disturbance and removal of marine animals.

Cultural Resources

- Consult the Pacheenaht Native people.
- Determine the significance of archaeological resources.

Scientific Research

- Develop research program criteria.
- Document and authorize scientific research activities.

Phase II (Long term)

Land

- Add Lot 158 and 400 metre foreshore strip to the park.
- Add portion of Lot 110 and 400 metre foreshore strip to the park.

Forest and Vegetation

- Prepare a forest and vegetation management plan.
- Prepare a fire, insect and disease management plan.

Fish

- Prepare a fisheries management plan.

Wildlife

- Establish a wildlife education program.
- Evaluate changes in species habitat and types.

Cultural Resources

- Develop a history of park uses.
- Develop a history of Native people use in the park.

Visitor Services

Phase I (Short term)

Visitor Opportunities

- Prepare an interpretation program.
- Implement Phase I of the facility-development program. (See Appendix I).

- Place all commercially guided groups under park-use permit.
- Establish guidelines for monitoring group use.

Management Services

- Install a gate at the entrance to the park.
- Provide summer staff in the park.
- Establish a volunteer program.

Promotion and Information Program

- Prepare a communications plan.
- Develop and evaluate ideas for the Port Renfrew visitor centre and visitor information program.

Phase II (Long term)

Visitor Opportunities

- Implement Phase II of the facility development program. (See Appendix I).

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Botanical Beach
Provincial Park

MASTER PLAN

DRAFT

Background Report



Introduction

Botanical Beach Provincial Park (Figure 1), located 108 kilometres west of Victoria, protects and preserves an intertidal biological phenomenon of outstanding significance. Over time, the ocean has eroded the sandstone-conglomerate bedrock at San Juan Point to create impressive tidepools. This natural phenomenon comprises an intertidal environment of abundant ecological associations.

Botanical Beach developed an international reputation beginning in 1900 when the University of Minnesota established a marine research station on the site. The area continues to be the subject of research by institutions such as the University of British Columbia and the University of Victoria.

Provincial interest in the park began in 1961, when the area was proposed for ecological reserve status to protect its special natural features. At this time, the provincial government established a Land Act reserve to protect the foreshore for the use and enjoyment of the public. The reserve was expanded in 1964, and again in 1966 until it encompassed approximately 47 hectares including 2200 metres of foreshore, fronting all of Lot 109 and some of Lots 108 and 110. Proposals for acquisition of the upland area surrounding the tidepools also began at this time.

In 1981, B.C. Parks began a detailed investigation of Botanical Beach that resulted in a park proposal a year later. Botanical Beach was established as a provincial Class A park on February 9, 1989. The park includes 231 hectares of upland and 120 hectares of foreshore for a total area of 351 hectares. Botanical Beach contains an irregular shoreline honeycombed with tidepools and depressions, tide rifts, perpendicular walls, overhanging ledges, caves, blowholes and wave resistant schist, along with remnant old-growth forest on the upland area.

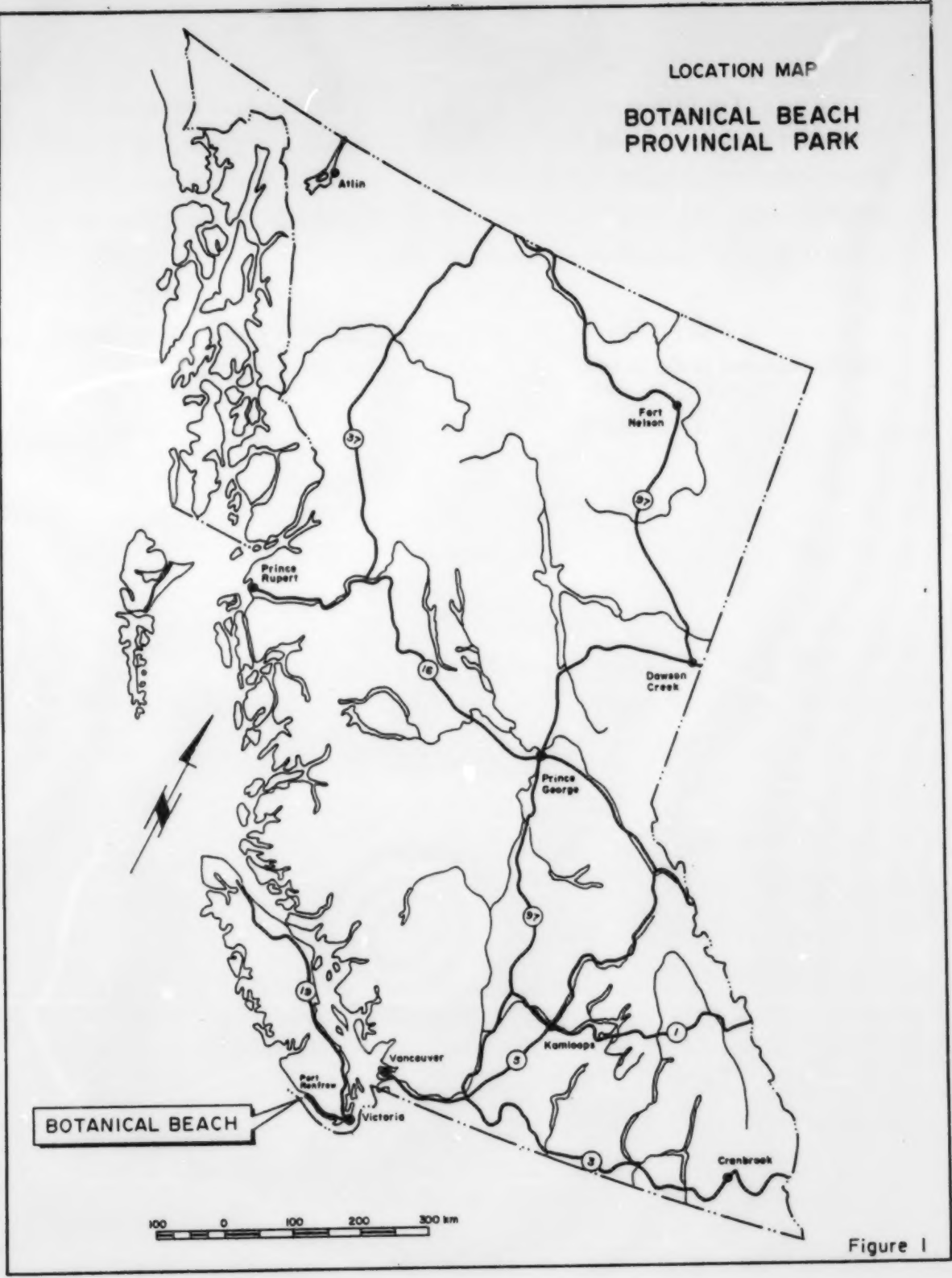


Figure 1

The park is situated at the west end of the San Juan Peninsula, 3.5 kilometres southwest of Port Renfrew (Figure 2). Access to the area is by paved and gravel-surfaced highway to Port Renfrew from Victoria and Sooke, followed by a rough four-wheel-drive road south from Port Renfrew. Primitive parking facilities and trails are located within Lot 108 on the southwest side.

Large portions of the upland were logged in the early 1960s. In 1987, new logging occurred in the centre portion of Lot 109, covering about 10 hectares.

BOTANICAL BEACH PROVINCIAL PARK REGIONAL SETTING

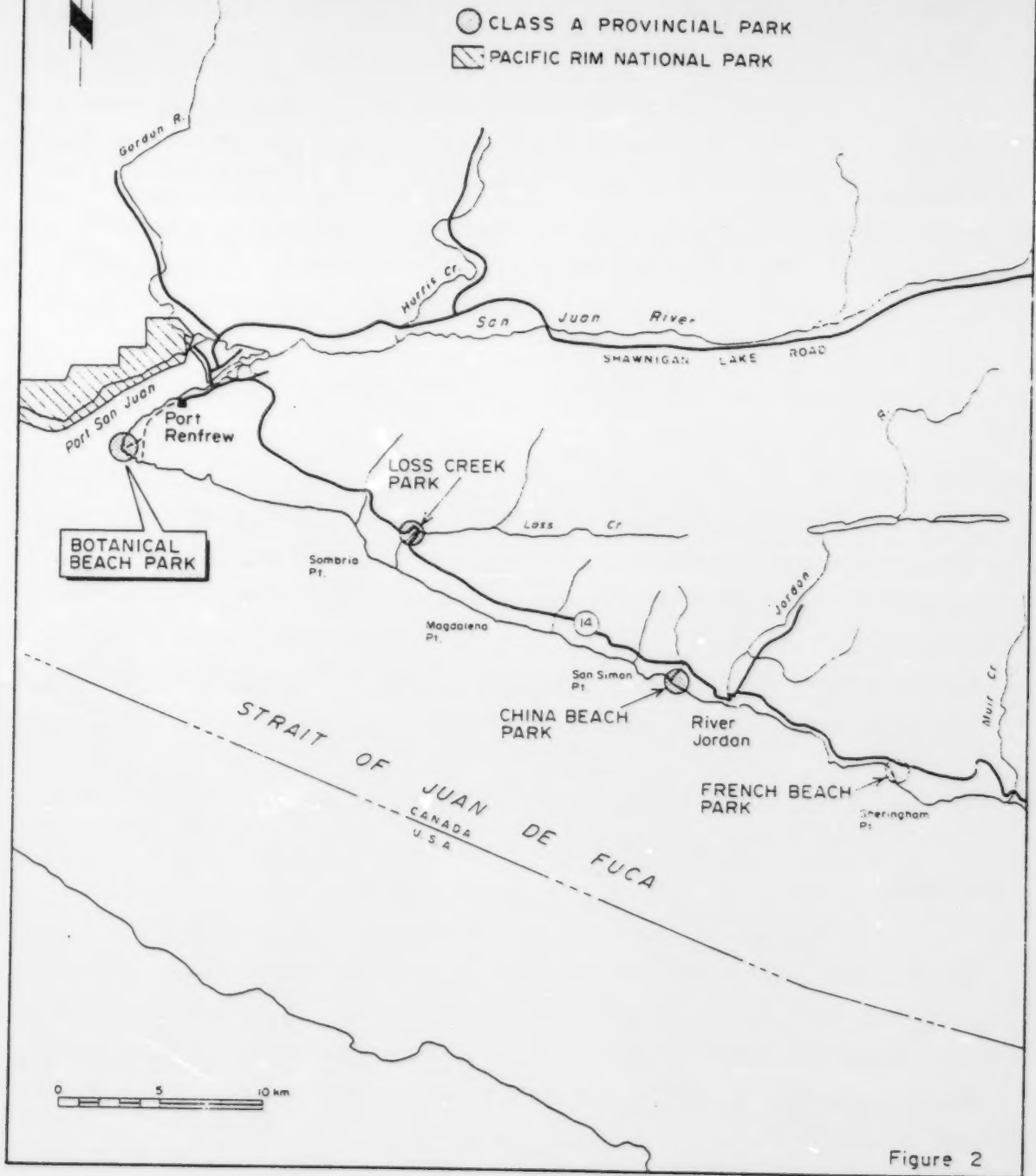


Figure 2

Natural and Cultural Resources

Natural Resources

Climate

As is typical for the west coast climate, the area receives high precipitation in the form of rainfall. The average annual rainfall for the area is 3,883 mm, with rain falling on 195 days of the year. Snow is a rare occurrence. The temperatures are generally moderate to cool but seldom fall to the freezing point. The average daily temperature is 8.8°C, with a range from 4.9°C - 12.8°C. In winter, the park is subject to cloudy, wet conditions caused by a succession of moisture-laden, low-pressure systems which rise upon contact with the coastal slopes. During summer, frequent spells of fine sunny weather occur as North Pacific high-pressure cells extend over the coast.

Physiography

The park is included within the Vancouver Island Mountains of the Insular Mountains. Glaciation contributed a wide range of surficial materials. The lack of extensive beaches in the area is due to the resistance of exposed bedrock to erosion since the coastline emerged from its covering of Pleistocene ice. The sea cliffs found in the park resulted from the presence of eroded rock formations susceptible to erosion, such as the softer Cretaceous and Tertiary shales and shaly sandstones.

The terrain of the area is largely rolling and hilly.

Geology

The tidepools are the major geological feature in the park (Figure 3). Scientists believe they were formed through the erosion of bedrock geology. These depressions vary in shape and depth, and occur to different degrees in sandstone, shale and conglomerate rock. The majority of the small pools are circular in shape, while the larger are elliptical. The elliptical shape indicates they were formed from two or more smaller pools.

BOTANICAL BEACH PARK SHORELINE GEOLOGY

LEGEND

-  SCHIST / SHALE
-  SANDSTONE
-  CONGLOMERATE / SCHIST / SANDSTONE
-  SAND-PEBBLE BEACH
-  LIMESTONE

Hammond
Rocks

Cerantes
Rock

San Juan
Point

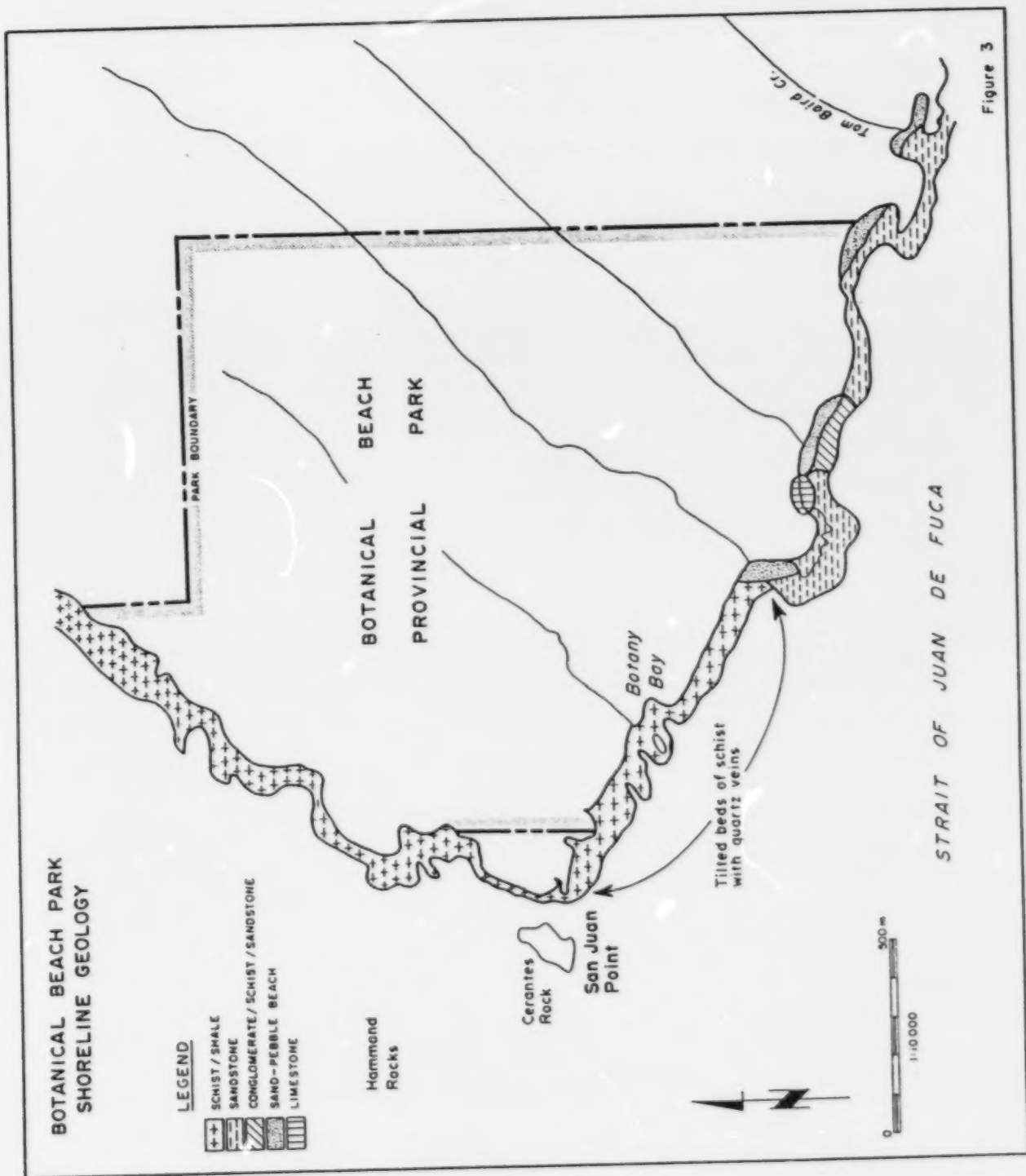
Botany
Bay

Tilted beds of schist
with quartz veins



STRAIT OF JUAN DE FUCA

Figure 3



The principal rock formations of the area are sandstone, shale and conglomerate. The shale lies at the bottom, conglomerate overlies the shale, and sandstone overlies the conglomerate. In many areas the overlying strata is eroded, leaving the conglomerate or shale to form the surface rock. The horizontal rock forming the floor leading to the ocean is greywacke, a type of sandstone.

There are extensive sandstone flats of two types of hardness on the eastern portion of the shore. San Juan Point contains quartz veins in tilted beds of schist (layers of unequal hardness). Beach deposits of fragmented slate are found to the east of San Juan Point. Volcanic intrusions of andesite are found off the shoreline.

An intriguing shore feature, located east of the park, is the area called the Devil's Billiard Table. It consists of spherical masses from 5 to 10 centimetres in size. These masses consist of sand grains aggregated by a cement of calcium carbonate. The theory of their formation (put forward by a researcher at the Minnesota marine research station) is that the force of crystallization caused the symmetrical shape.

Above the tidepools, sheer sandstone cliffs rise about 15 metres above the high tidemark. These cliffs are pitted and carved by the relentless action of the waves, rain, and wind. The Botany Bay area is dominated and protected by rocky headlands and platforms. Some small sea caves exist at several locations along the shoreline.

An interesting feature of the upland area is a glacier meltwater channel. The upland area is quite irregular and hilly, and slopes steeply to the south. The bedrock is close to the surface and is exposed in many areas.

Soils

Since the soils of the park have not as yet been surveyed, only a general description of the soils is provided.

Because of the high precipitation and low evapo-transpiration levels of the area, the soils are generally moist to wet over most of the year. A high incidence of associated poorly drained soils also typify this area.

The soils of the park consist predominantly of ferro-humic podzol. The parent material is coarse textured and acidic because of prolonged chemical weathering of the terrain.

Vegetation

The vegetation in the upland area of the park is typical of the Sitka spruce subzone of the Coastal Western Hemlock Biogeoclimatic Zone. There is a small remnant example of old-growth forest. Dense, tall salal dominates the understorey, giving way to Sitka spruce, western hemlock and in wet sites, western redcedar.

Large portions of the forest were logged in the early 1960s and a smaller area was logged in 1987. However, the forest is slowly reclaiming these sites.

The marine environment of the park has a great abundance and diversity of plant species. Scientists have recorded more than 231 marine plant species from the site. A new kelp was discovered here in 1905 and was named Renfrewia parvula, but now is known as Laminaria ephemera. An extensive algal forest is found in Botany Bay and is exposed at low tide. Botanical Beach is the first southern location on Vancouver Island where Sea Palm, a brown alga, can be observed. This alga is characteristic of true west coast conditions.

Wildlife

The tidepools offer habitats for a rich variety of marine fauna. Marine life can be viewed here that is seldom observed this high in the intertidal zone. Scientists have recorded over 100 marine invertebrates (animals with no spinal column) found at Botanical Beach.

A 1982 report by B.W. Bisgrove lists the marine life found at Botanical Beach. The area provides habitat for many gastropods including limpets, periwinkles and snails. Four species of sea stars are found here, along with species of anemone, coral, chiton, mussel, barnacle, crab, sea urchin, and sea cucumber. The California mussel (Mytilus californianus), purple sea urchin (Strongylocentrotus purpuratus), and the giant green anemone (Anthopleura xanthogrammica) are abundant species in the area.

The offshore ocean forms part of the migration route of the gray whale (Eschrichtius glaucus). Pods of whales pass the entrance of the Juan de Fuca Strait throughout April and May. Individual whales often can be observed approximately 20 metres from the shore during the summer season.

Botanical Beach Park contains a variety of land mammals and birds. H. Van der Pol and K. Taylor, in the July/August and September/October, 1989 issues of The Victoria Naturalist identified the following bird species as common for the park: Western and Least Sandpiper, California Gull, Killdeer, Mew Gull, Marbled Murrelet, Pacific Loon, Brandt's Cormorant, American Robin, Townsend's Warbler, and American Goldfinch. Land mammals which may be found in the park include red squirrel, black bear, cougar, blacktail deer, river otter, mink and raccoon. Amphibians and reptiles which may be found in the park include Northwestern Salamander, Western Red-backed Salamander, Western Toad, Pacific Treefrog, Common Garter Snake and the Pacific Green Turtle.

Outdoor Recreation Features and Visual Resources

Botanical Beach Provincial Park contains a significant variety of outdoor recreation features set in a marine recreation context (Figure 4). The main focus is the nationally and provincially significant tidepools rich with intertidal sea life. Located along the southeast portion of the park's shoreline, these tidepools are internationally renowned. The main pools are adjacent to an impressive rock headland and a small, remnant example of old growth, coastal western hemlock forest. The promontory behind the tidepools provides excellent viewing opportunities.

East of the tidepools, the shoreline contains attractive sand and pebble beaches. The upland behind the shore is covered by a mixed forest canopy slowly reclaiming previously logged areas. Excellent camping and picnicking potential is found here.

The shoreline west of the tidepools is dominated by rock exposures and headlands. Sheltered sand and pebble pocket beaches are found at Botany Bay. Several large coniferous trees stand isolated behind Botany Bay. Camping and picnicking potential exists in the upland at this location.

San Juan Point is a rugged rock promontory extending out into the strait. A small stand of old growth forest remains east of the point.

The shoreline is extremely rugged beyond San Juan Point north to the northwest corner of D.L. 710. Some small sea caves and pocket beaches exist along the shore. These features are of moderate significance.

The park has moderately significant cultural recreation features. Three archaeological sites, related to native fishing use, exist in or adjacent to the park. In addition, Botanical Beach was the first marine scientific research station in the Pacific Northwest and functioned as a World War II defence site.

Much of the park's upland is ranked as low in feature significance because of past land uses such as logging.

Botanical Beach Park's visual qualities are associated with the spectacular panoramic vistas achieved along the shoreline, the remnant old-growth forest, and the colourful rock formations at the tidepools and Botany Bay. At the nearly 100-metre summit on the west side of the park, the viewer is provided with an unobstructed view of the park and the Juan de Fuca Strait.

Cultural Resources

Although little is known about the early human history of the area, there is evidence that it was used by Native people. There are three archaeological sites (Dd Sc 2, Dd Sc 3, Dd Sc 4) located in the park (Figure 5). It appears that these sites were used by Native people as seasonal shark-fishing camps. The oil was extracted from the shark's liver and used in trade with the Hudson Bay Company.

The first marine research station in the Pacific Northwest was established in 1901 by the University of Minnesota. Initially, two buildings were constructed. A two-storey botany laboratory was added later. The buildings provided accommodation for as many as 80 researchers.

BOTANICAL BEACH PROVINCIAL PARK OUTDOOR RECREATION FEATURES

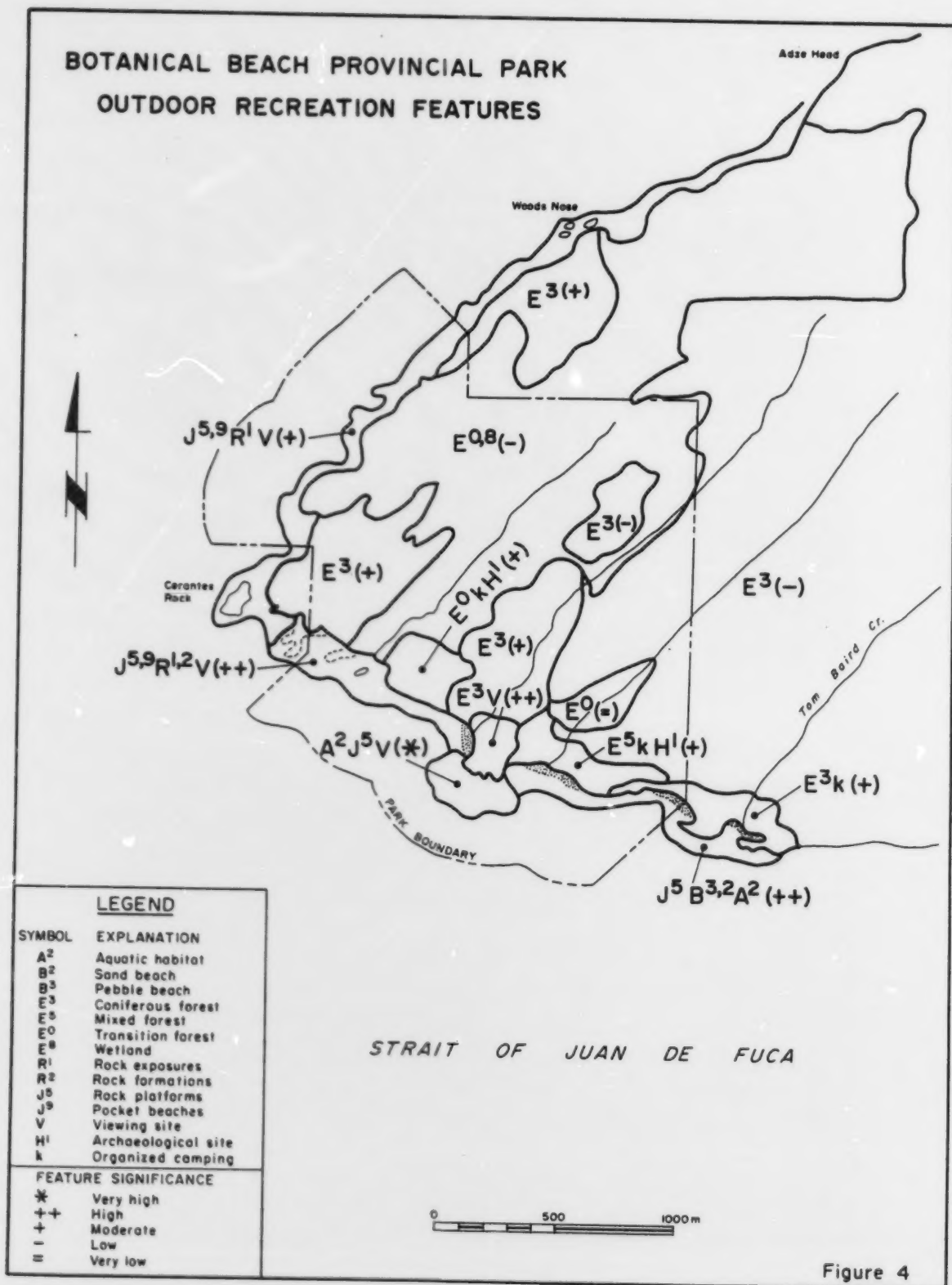




Plate #1. The tidepools are ranked very high (*) in feature significance.



Plate #2. The park's west coast rock platforms and pocket beaches.



Plate #3. Rock cliffs behind the main tidepools.

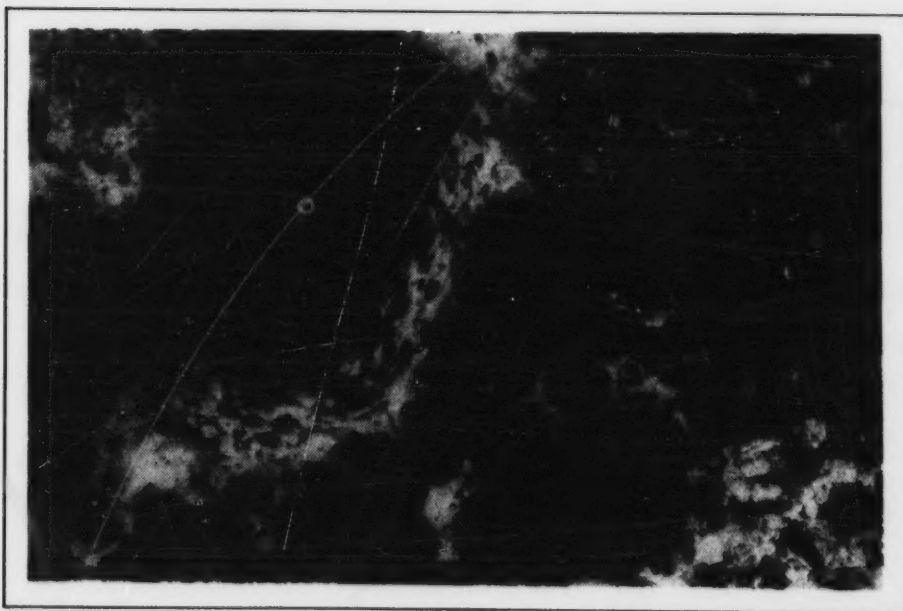


Plate #4. An example of the marine life in a tidepool.

Professor Conway MacMillan, state botanist of Minnesota, and Dr. Josephine Tilden of the University of Minnesota, were the main force behind this research station, even funding its operation from their own salaries. In 1906, the station was closed because the University of Minnesota would not support a research program outside the United States of America. The site of the buildings is still discernible although it is being rapidly reclaimed by the forest.

During World War II, the park was used by the military for defence of the coast. Remnants of a plank road, constructed to provide access to a gun emplacement, still exist.

Resource Analysis

This section considers the significance of the natural and cultural resources of the park in relation to the goals of the provincial park system which are: a) to protect examples of the most important representative natural landscapes of B.C.; b) to protect province's key recreation settings and most outstanding scenic features; c) to provide parks that are major outdoor recreation destinations; d) to provide parks along major travel corridors; and e) to provide parks for regional recreation where other agencies cannot.

The area is an outstanding intertidal biological environment of national and provincial significance. The park's location on southern Vancouver Island allows the public access to a west coast environment which is unique because of the combination of biological diversity, geological features, coastal scenery, and marine biological history.

BOTANICAL BEACH PROVINCIAL PARK PLACE NAMES, ACCESS AND CULTURAL VALUES

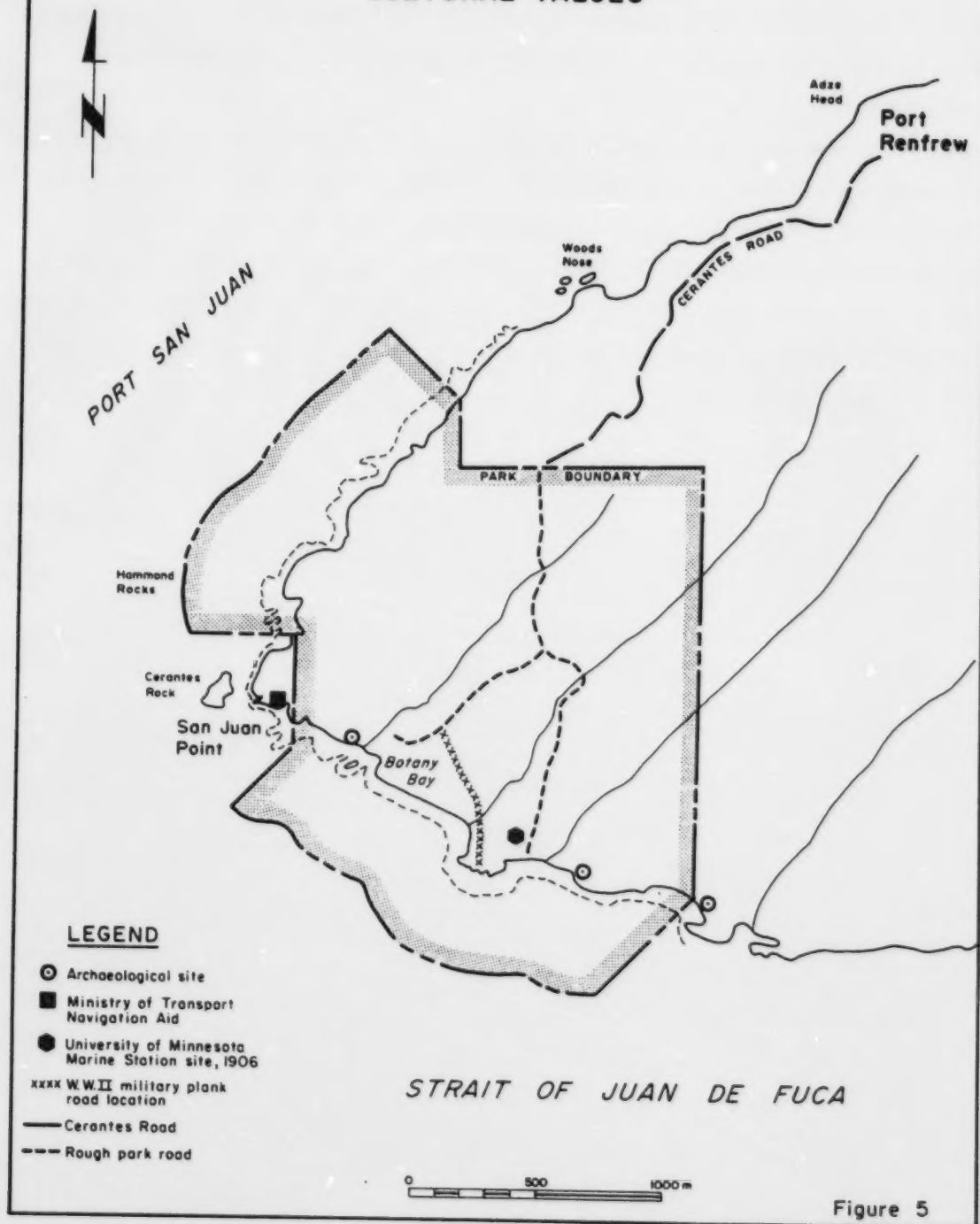


Figure 5

The shoreline of Vancouver Island between Victoria and Port Renfrew is identified in the BC Parks draft Victoria Sub-Regional Systems Plan as the Juan De Fuca Parkway. The park contributes to the main objective of the Sub-Regional Systems Plan as part of the Juan de Fuca Parkway. The parkway is a recreational corridor with provincial parks serving as focus points for the public to encounter a variety of outstanding marine environments along the west coast of Vancouver Island (Figure 2). China Beach and French Beach provincial parks present a sandy shoreline environment. Loss Creek Provincial Park conserves and presents a stand of old-growth coastal western hemlock forest. Botanical Beach presents another important but different recreation opportunity. Acting as the western terminus of the parkway, the park provides the most biologically significant marine environment in this chain of provincial parks between Victoria and Port Renfrew.

Recreation Opportunities

Camping and picnicking potential exists in the uplands behind the shore east of the tidepools and at Botany Bay. Opportunities exist for short day hikes to destinations in the upland areas and isolated pocket beaches past the tidepools. Nature appreciation is a major attraction emanating from the park's marine environment, tidepools, and panoramic views, and the presence of whales.

Existing facilities at Botanical Beach Park consist of rough-road access and primitive parking and trails located within Lot 108 and 109 on the south side of the park.

Tenures, Occupancy Rights, and Jurisdictions

Leases and Use Permits

The provincial government and the Nature Trust of British Columbia entered into a 99-year lease for Lot 1, D.L.109, R.D., Plan 6459-C on May 14, 1987. The lease is effective from June 1, 1987.

Right-of-ways

The West Coast Road right-of-way - Plan 1710-B, lots 108, 109, 448 and 710, was gazetted February 7, 1929. The Cerantes Road right-of-way - Plan 1786, lots 448 and 710, was gazetted August 15, 1968.

Fee simple land holdings

D.L. 444 on the west side of the park is privately owned. D.L. 110 on the southeast side of the park and D.L. 158 on the northwest side, are privately owned.

Forest Tenures - N/A

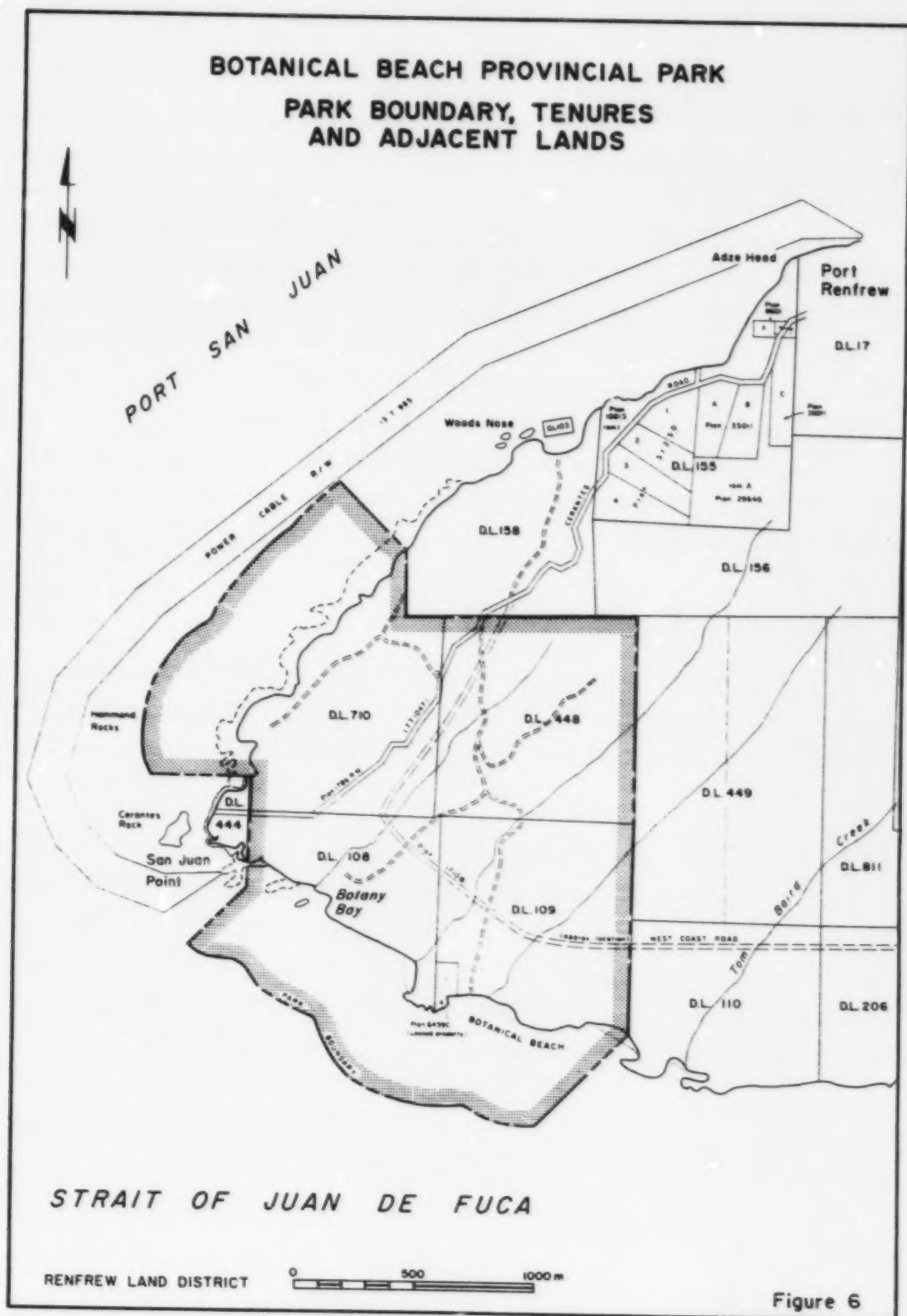
Mineral Tenures - N/A

Water rights - N/A

Trespasses - N/A

Statutory Jurisdictions - N/A

Special Regulations - N/A



Market Analysis

Existing Use

A recreation-capability study conducted in 1982 by BC Parks estimated use of Botanical Beach at 2,000-3,000 party days. In 1987, the Capital Regional District estimated the number of yearly visits to be in excess of 10,000. BC Parks, however, placed an automated vehicle counter on the Botanical Beach Park access road from mid-June to mid-September, 1991. The counter recorded some 6500 vehicles during this period. Thus, over 22,000 people (6500 x 3.5 persons per party) visited the park in the summer of 1991. The majority of visitors come from the Victoria region. Interested individuals, school groups, and natural history groups will likely continue to be the primary users of the park.

Promotion and Information

Botanical Beach is already world renowned, largely because of published articles on the area, scientific research, and word-of-mouth. BC Parks produced an information brochure in 1989 advising the public about the park and access conditions.

Park Product

The shoreline of the park offers scenery and coastal features of national and provincial significance. The tidepools, which the area is most noted for, are an unusual natural feature offering special habitats for intertidal sea life. Another major attraction is the presence of gray whales close to shore and the potential to observe these animals on their yearly migration.

Popular activities in the park include picnicking, interpretation, education, photography and viewing. Botanical Beach offers a valuable day-use experience with the potential for day hikes and beach exploration to the isolated pocket beaches and upland summits along the west coast of the park, beyond the tidepool area. The outstanding marine environment provides opportunities for nature study of intertidal sea life. Picnicking sites are available along the shoreline of the park. The previously logged upland environment provides the opportunity for long-term interpretive education programs.

Master Plan Issues

The Botanical Beach master plan will address the following issues.

Park Role

Botanical Beach Park is the western terminus of the Juan de Fuca Parkway. The park is located close to Port Renfrew and Pacific Rim National Park Reserve. The master plan will define the role the park will play in the parkway and its relationship with local communities, adjacent landowners and Pacific Rim National Park Reserve.

Natural and Cultural Resource Protection

The park's tidepools are rich in variety and quantity of marine life. The park also contains remnant old-growth forest and archaeological sites. These resources are vulnerable as evidenced by the recent Vancouver Island oil spill. The master plan will identify the management objectives and actions needed to protect the park's natural and cultural resources and those measures to be taken in the event of pollution or similar emergency.

Vegetation Management

Private interests logged much of the park's upland forest. The master plan will establish a management strategy to inventory vegetation resources, evaluate the inventory data, and prepare a vegetation management plan which will emphasize a return to a coastal western hemlock environment.

Park Facility Development

Except for the existing four-wheel-drive access road to Botany Bay and the upland east of the tidepools, Botanical Beach Park has no recreation facilities. The master plan will identify compatible recreation opportunities and facilities which adequately protect the park's fragile resources yet provide reasonable public access.

Public Education and Information

Botanical Beach Park contains an outstanding marine showcase. Educational institutions, such as the University of British Columbia, have long recognized and used this natural educational laboratory. The master plan will prepare a program to continue this vital role while also educating the public to respect and protect these resources.

Park Boundary

Botanical Beach Park virtually encloses private land (D.L. 444) on its west side. The West Coast Road right-of-way still encumbers the park's upland. Significant shoreline and upland resources exist within District Lot 110 on the park's east side and District Lot 158 adjacent to the northwest side of the park. The master plan will identify areas where boundary changes should be considered in relation to park resource management and recreation use requirements.

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Botanical Beach
Provincial Park

MASTER
PLAN
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Appendix I
Development Concept Plan



Introduction

B.C. Parks identified the preparation of a facility-development concept plan as a vital part of the Botanical Beach Park master planning process. The park requires sensitive and careful planning to adequately protect the park's natural and cultural resources.

A number of basic ideas for developing facilities in Botanical Beach Park were cooperatively developed by the BC Parks master planning team and representatives of the Port Renfrew council, the Pacheenaht Indian Band, the Capital Regional District and Pacific Rim National Park in October, 1989. BC Parks also received responses to letters written to interested groups and individuals who, in the past, expressed concern about the park's future development.

The development concept will be governed by the following principles advanced by the public and B.C. Parks staff.

- The natural environment of the park will be protected.
- Overnight camping will not be permitted in the park as long as sufficient opportunities exist outside the park.
- Parking facilities will be concentrated in the central part of the park to provide further security for the tidepools.
- The existing road to the tidepools area will be removed and the area restored to natural conditions.
- Information facilities will be sited at the key entry points (parking lots and trailheads) to the park.
- Foot access will be provided to the west part of the park.

- Old logging road right-of-ways will be used to locate sites for trails, roads and parking lots.
- Botany Bay and the tidepools trails and viewing platforms will be suitable for wheelchair access.
- BC Parks will place a gate at the entry to the park to manage vehicle access.

Development Concept

The main reason for the creation of Botanical Beach Park is the special marine ecosystem in the tidepools. Few areas in the BC Parks system match the superb display of intertidal life provided by Botanical Beach Park.

Beyond the marine focus of the park, however, an opportunity exists to expand public recreation and educational opportunities in other areas of the park. To ensure the park's natural and cultural resources are protected, while satisfying these other opportunities, requires careful planning of the location and type of BC Parks recreation facilities. The location of park roads, parking lots and trails is particularly crucial.

A significant portion of Botanical Beach Provincial Park is affected by past logging activities. This previous land use presents problems as well as opportunities. In the Botanical Beach Park master plan, BC Parks addresses several significant resource management issues caused by the removal of the forest cover. Ironically, the logging road system provides access to the park's hinterland and recreation features.

BC Parks staff and the public want adequate protection for the unique marine ecosystem found in the tidepools at Botanical Beach. Therefore, the location of park facilities is critical. Also, development on a modest scale will help in managing the numbers of visitors in the park.

Present Access

The existing logging road provides a rough route to a parking area just north of Botany Bay. The road also has a spur which provides access to a site north of the main tidepools. The rough condition of the road generally restricts access to four-wheel-drive vehicles with high clearance. But during the drier summer months, it is not uncommon to find people driving ordinary two-wheel-drive vehicles into the park. Damage to vehicles sometimes results because of the rocky and deeply trenched road surface.

The present road alignment crosses several short but steep rises for most of the 1.5 kilometres from the park boundary to the parking area next to Botany Bay. The parking area consists of an extensive flat bench cleared by previous logging.

The Concept for the Main Parking Lot and Botany Bay Development

The following development is proposed for the main parking lot and Botany Bay (Facility Area A).

- Construct 600 metres of gravel access road.
- Install a 75-100 unit parking lot.
- Place picnic tables adjacent to the trail viewing sites.
- Install an No. 1 information-centre shelter next to the parking lot.
- Develop sanitary facilities near the main parking lot.
- Construct 750 metres of trail from the parking lot to Botany Bay beach.

BOTANICAL BEACH PROVINCIAL PARK FACILITY DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT

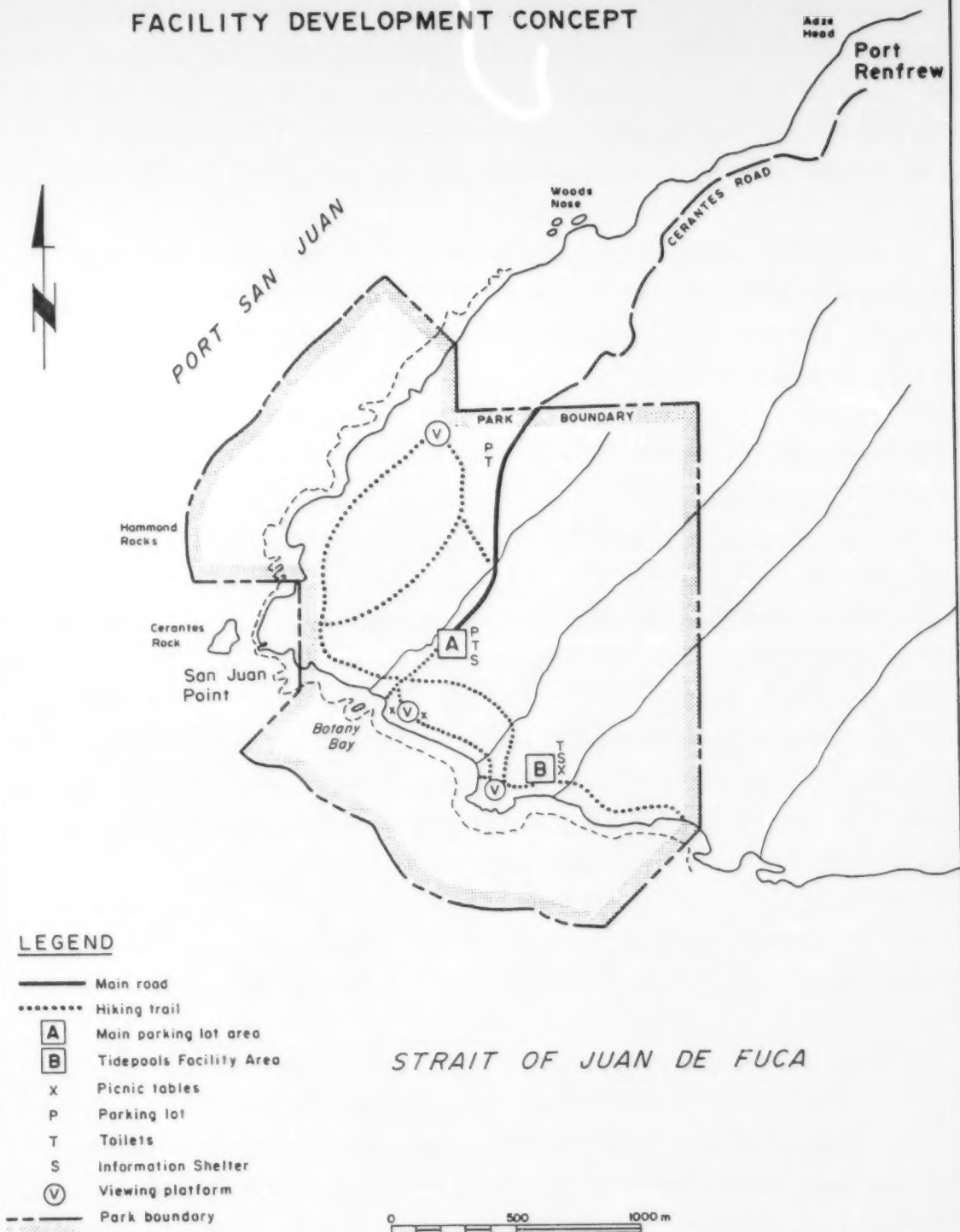


Figure 1

- Develop 600 - 800 metres of Type II trail from the Botany Bay beach area to the tidepools. An important consideration in trail construction is the surface material to be used. The wet climatic regime and the rapid growth of salal will make trail maintenance a major management challenge. Boardwalks may be necessary. In addition, all trails will be accessible for wheelchair users.

The main parking lot will be located in the centre of the park (Figure 1). An evaluation of possible sites for a 75-to-100 car parking lot and toilet facilities is required. This parking lot location will allow BC Parks to place vehicles well away from the main tidepools and permit practical management of vehicle access.

The Concept for Tidepools Development

The logging road branches at the south boundary of Lot 448, travels about 150 metres southeast, then southerly 700 metres within Lot 109 northeast of the main tidepools. This route currently provides vehicle access for the public. This road will be removed and rehabilitated as natural area. A new trail location will be considered in this part of the park.

The tidepools are the main feature of interest to the public at this location. But this area also has the best pebble and sand beaches in the park. Splendid views of the Strait of Juan De Fuca are another attraction. A trail will be built along the backshore from the tidepools east to the park boundary.

The following development is proposed for the tidepools beach area (Facility Area B).

- Install information and sanitary facilities.
- Construct a viewing platform on the promontory above the main tidepools. This is a facility which requires careful assessment because of safety and visual resource impairment considerations. The platform must be accessible for wheelchair users.

- Develop 600 - 800 metres of trail from the tidepools along the backshore to Botany Bay.

- Construct a viewing platform along the trail from the tidepools to Botany Bay. The same considerations apply to this facility as the promontory platform.

- Develop an 800-metre trail from the Botany Bay trail to the tidepools beach. This trail may be considered as an alternative route to the tidepools when current road access is abandoned. Location and need must be determined.

- Develop an 800-metre trail from the tidepools east to the park boundary. This trail will provide the public with access to the east beach areas.

The Concept for West Beach Trail Development

The West Beach trail will complement the facility development at Botany Bay and the tidepools. The development will consist of a loop-trail system to the west coast of the park. A trail will be constructed which begins at the main parking lot, then traverses the north, west and south side of Lot 710 and the northwest side of Lot 108. Trail location will kept well away from Lot 444 which is privately owned. People will have the option of walking back to the main parking lot or carrying on to Botany Bay.

The West Beach Trail system will provide the public with the opportunity to gain access to the rugged west coast area of the park. Also, BC Parks will build a trail to the nearly 100-metre high summit in the extreme northwest corner of the park. This site will provide unobstructed views of the park and the Strait of Juan De Fuca.

BC Parks will also provide a small (10 to 15 unit) parking lot and toilet facilities near the north boundary of the park. People will leave their vehicles here should BC Parks close access to the main parking lot during the winter season.

The following development is proposed for the West Beach Trail.

- Develop 3000 metres of trail.
- Build a viewing platform at a strategic location along the trail. Facility requirements are similar to those in place for the promontory platform.
- Construct a small parking lot and toilet facilities near the park's north boundary.

Schedule for Facility Development

Phase I

The following projects are first priority:

- 75 - 100 unit parking lot;
- 600 metre gravel access road;
- 750-metre trail from main parking lot to Botany Bay;
- 800-metre trail from Botany Bay to the tidepools;
- Two information shelters;
- four toilets;
- picnic tables;
- Traffic control gate; and,
- a small parking lot and toilet facilities near the park's north boundary.

Phase II

The following projects are second priority:

- 3000-metre trail for the west coast;
- 800-metre trail from the tidepools to the park's east boundary;
- Three viewing platforms; and,
- 800-metre trail from the Botany Bay road to the tidepools.

Botanical Beach
Provincial Park

MASTER PLAN

DRAFT

Appendix II
Park Zone Descriptions



ZONING IN BC PARKS

	Intensive Recreation	Natural Environment
OBJECTIVE	To provide for a variety of readily accessible, facility-oriented outdoor recreation opportunities.	To protect scenic values and to provide for backcountry recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment.
USE LEVEL	Relatively high density and long duration types of use.	Relatively low use but higher levels in association with nodes of activity or access.
MEANS OF ACCESS	All-weather public roads or other types of access where use levels are high (see "Impacts" below).	Mechanized (power-boats, snowmobiles, all terrain vehicles), non-mechanized (foot, horse, canoe, bicycle). Aircraft and motorboat access to drop-off and pickup points will be permitted.
LOCATION	Contiguous with all-weather roads and covering immediate areas, modified landscapes or other high-use areas.	Removed from all-weather roads but easily accessible on a day-use basis. Accessible by mechanized means such as boat or plane.
SIZE OF ZONE	Small, usually less than 2,000 ha.	Can range from small to large.
BOUNDARY DEFINITION	Includes areas of high facility development in concentrated areas.	Boundaries should consider limits of activity/facility areas relative to ecosystem characteristics and features.
RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES	Vehicle camping, picnicking, beach activities, power-boating, canoeing, kayaking, strolling, historic and nature appreciation, fishing, snowplay, downhill and cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, specialized activities.	Walk-in/boat-in camping, power-boating, hunting, canoeing, kayaking, backpacking, historic and nature appreciation, fishing, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, river rafting, horseback riding, heli-skiing, heli-hiking, and specialized activities.

Special Feature	Wilderness Recreation	Wilderness Conservation
To protect and present significant natural or cultural resources, features or processes because of their special character, fragility and heritage values.	To protect a remote, undisturbed natural landscape and to provide backcountry recreation opportunities dependent on a pristine environment where air access may be permitted to designated sites.	To protect a remote, undisturbed natural landscape and to provide unassisted backcountry recreation opportunities dependent on a pristine environment where no motorized activities will be allowed.
Generally low.	Very low use, to provide solitary experiences and a wilderness atmosphere. Use may be controlled to protect the environment.	Very low use, to provide solitary experiences and a wilderness atmosphere. Use may be controlled to protect the environment.
Various; may require special access permit.	Non-mechanized; except may permit low frequency air access to designated sites; foot, canoe (horses may be permitted).	Non-mechanized (no air access); foot, canoe (horses may be permitted).
Determined by location of special resources; may be surrounded by or next to any of the other zones.	Remote; generally not visited on a day-use basis.	Remote; not easily visited on a day-use basis.
Small; usually less to 2000 hectares.	Large; greater than 5,000 ha.	Large; greater than 5,000 ha.
Area defined by biophysical characteristics or the nature and extent of cultural resources (adequate to afford protection).	Defined by ecosystem limits and geographic features. Boundaries will encompass areas of visitor interest for specific activities supported by air access. Will be designated under the Park Act.	Defined by ecosystem limits and geographic features. Will be designated under the Park Act.
Sight-seeing, historic and nature appreciation. May be subject to temporary closures or permanently restricted access.	Backpacking, canoeing, kayaking, river rafting, nature and historic appreciation, hunting, fishing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, horseback riding, specialized activities (eg. caving, climbing).	Backpacking, canoeing, kayaking, river rafting, nature and historic appreciation, fishing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, horseback riding, specialized activities (eg. caving, climbing).

	Intensive Recreation	Natural Environment
FACILITIES	May be intensely developed for user convenience. Campgrounds, landscaped picnic/play areas, trail, accommodation or interpretive buildings, boat launches; administrative buildings, service campgrounds, gravel pits, disposal sites, wood lots, parking lots, etc.	Moderately developed for user convenience. Trails, walk-in/boat-in campsites, shelters; accommodation buildings may be permitted; facilities for motorized access eg. docks, landing strips, fuel storage, etc.
IMPACTS ON NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	Includes natural resource features and phenomena in a primarily natural state but where human presence may be readily visible both through the existence of recreation facilities and of people using the zone. Includes areas of high facility development with significant impact on concentrated areas.	Area where human presence on the land is not normally visible; facility development limited to relatively small areas. Facilities are visually compatible with natural setting.
MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES	Oriented toward maintaining a high quality recreation experience. Intensive management of resource and/or control of visitor activities. Operational facilities designed for efficient operation while remaining unobtrusive to the park visitor.	Oriented to maintaining a natural environment and to providing a high quality recreation experience. Visitor access may be restricted to preserve the recreation experience or to limit impacts. Separation of less compatible recreational activities and transportation. Designation of transportation modes may be necessary to avoid potential conflicts (eg. horse trails, cycle paths, hiking trails).
EXAMPLES OF ZONING	Campground in Rathrevor Beach Park; Gibson Pass ski areas in E.C. Manning Park.	Core area in Cathedral Park; North beach in Naikoon Park.

Special Feature	Wilderness Recreation	Wilderness Conservation
Interpretive facilities only, resources are to be protected.	Minimal facility development. Limited development for user convenience and safety, and protection of the environment eg. trails, primitive campsites, etc. Some basic facilities at access nodes, eg. dock, primitive shelter, etc.	None.
None; resources to be maintained unimpaired.	Natural area generally free of evidence of modern human beings. Evidence of human presence is confined to specific facility sites. Facilities are visually compatible with natural setting.	Natural area generally free of evidence of modern human beings.
High level of management protection with ongoing monitoring. Oriented to maintaining resources and, where appropriate, a high quality recreational and interpretive experience. Active or passive management depending on size, location, and nature of the resource. Visitor access may be restricted to preserve the recreation experience and to limit impacts.	Oriented to protecting a pristine environment. Management actions are minimal and not evident. Managed to ensure low visitor use levels. Visitor access may be restricted to protect the natural environment and visitor experience.	Oriented to protecting a pristine environment. Management actions are minimal and not evident. Managed to ensure low visitor use levels. Visitor access may be restricted to protect the natural environment and visitor experience.
Tidepools in Botanical Beach Park; Sunshine Meadows in Mount Assiniboine Park.	Quanchus Mountains Wilderness in Tweedsmuir Park; Wilderness Zone in Spatsizi Park.	Central Valhallas Wilderness in Valhalla Park; Garibaldi Park Nature Conservancy Area.